

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO HQDA WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
DIA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 4405
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4415

MONTEVIDEO FOR DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, SHUM, NU, UY
SUBJECT: XII CONFERENCE AMERICAN ARMIES: TOPICS

REF: USDAO MONTEVIDEO (SPECAT) DTG 161230Z SEP 77

1. EMB SUPPORTS THE ARGUMENT REFTEL FOR HAVING US REP AT SUBJECT CONFERENCE EXPRESS US POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE MILITARIES OF LATIN AMERICA WILL BE RELUCTANT TO REASSESS HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES UNLESS THEY COME CONVINCED IT IS NOT A PASSING ISSUE AND PUTS THEM ON A DIFFERENT COURSE THAN U.S. HEARING THAT MESSAGE FROM SENIOR U.S. MILITARY OFFICER OFFERS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR DRIVING THAT MESSAGE HOME.

2. THE ATTITUDE OF NICARAGUAN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS IS IS SIMILAR TO URUGUAYAN ATTITUDES DESCRIBED REFTEL AS FAR AS PERCEPTION OF COMMUNIST THREAT AND PREFERENCE FOR STONEWALLING. WE
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TOO HAVE URGED NEED FOR INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND REMEDIAL ACTION WITH SIMILAR LACK OF ENTHUSIASTIC OR FAVORABLE RESPONSE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY BE UNDERSTOOD NOT AS US INITIATIVE TO EMBARRASS OR DESTABILIZE REGIMES WITH POOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPUTATION BUT RATHER RESULT OF GENUINE CONCERN FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. OUR CONCERN IS BASED ON SERIOUS ANALYSIS OF LOCAL SITUATIONS AFTER STUDYING ALL

AVAILABLE INFORMATION. WE ARE PREPARED TO BELIEVE THERE MAY BE
DISTORTION IN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION OF SOME COUNTRIES AS
SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS AND HAVE SO STATED WHEN EVIDENCE OF
DISTORTION IS AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH
GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SUCH EVIDENCE AVAILABLE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT
RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSES PRESENTS PROBLEMS, BUT OUR
BELIEF IS THAT SUCH CREDIBILITY PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE GRADUALLY
OVERCOME BY A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF RESPONSIVENESS TO REQUESTS FOR
INFORMATION AND WILLINGNESS TO INVESTIGATE CONTINUING CONCERNS.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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